

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 088186

62

ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:ARDAY:TH

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

NEA:ALATHERTON, JR.

S/S - RKKUCHEL

----- 039728

O 130048Z APR 76 ZFF6

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 088186

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, LE, IS

SUBJECT: LEBANON

1. IN A SEPARATE CABLE TO DICK MURPHY, I AM ASKING HIM TO GET ACROSS TO THE SYRIANS, ON AN INFORMAL AND PERSONAL BASIS, OUR CONCERN ABOUT IDEAS THEY MAY HAVE TO PROVIDE A SYRIAN SECURITY FORCE IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST OF A NEW PRESIDENT. ASAD'S REPLY TO US ON YOUR SECURITY FORCE THOUGHTS SEEMED TO SUGGEST SUCH A POSSIBILITY, IF ONLY BECAUSE THERE IS NO OTHER EVIDENT RECOURSE IF ONE DISMISSES THE KINDS OF IDEAS YOU WERE PUTTING FORWARD. WHILE I AGREE THAT YOU SHOULD PUT YOUR OWN CONCEPTS ON ICE NOW, THE SUBJECT OF SECURITY WILL PRESUMABLY CONTINUE TO ARISE IN YOUR CONVERSATIONS AND YOU SHOULD TAKE SUCH OPPORTUNITIES TO REAFFIRM OUR CONCERN THAT THE INTERVENTION OF SYRIAN FORCES RUNS A VERY SERIOUS RISK OF ISRAELI COUNTERACTION. THIS WOULD BE TRUE EVEN IF A NEW LEBANESE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 088186

PRESIDENT WERE TO REQUEST SUCH INTERVENTION. THE

ISRAELI RESPONSE WOULD NOT BE BASED ON THE ATTITUDE OF THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT TOWARD THE INTERVENTION, BUT ON THEIR PERCEPTIONS OF THEIR OWN SECURITY. WE PRESSED THE ISRAELIS HARD TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT IN RECENT DAYS AND WE SUCCEEDED LARGELY BECAUSE THE SYRIAN MOVEMENT HAD BEEN RESTRICTED TO THE IMMEDIATE BORDER AREAS. A DEEPER

PENETRATION WOULD PROBABLY HAVE BEEN A DIFFERENT STORY.

2. IN RESPONSE TO YOUR THOUGHT ABOUT U.S. ACTION TO HELP NARROW THE GAP BETWEEN THE SYRIANS AND JUMBLATT, WE CAN ONLY AGREE THAT SOME RAPPROCHEMENT HERE WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE BUT WE STILL DOUBT THAT OUR INTERVENTION WOULD BE USEFUL. ASAD'S ATTITUDE TOWARD OUR ROLE IN LEBANON HAS A HEAVY INTERLARDING OF SUSPICION WHICH MAKES IT NECESSARY TO MOVE WITH CONSIDERABLE CAUTION AND TO LIMIT OUR INTERVENTIONS WITH HIM TO THOSE FEW AREAS IN WHICH WE HAVE AN OBVIOUS ROLE TO PLAY AND SOME CHANCE OF MAKING AN IMPRESSION. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT ASAD'S RELATIONS WITH JUMBLATT FALL INTO THIS CATEGORY.

3. YOU HAVE RAISED THE POSSIBILITY, IN THIS CONNECTION, OF A VISIT TO DAMASCUS. I DO NOT THINK THIS WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA, AT LEAST AT THIS STAGE. I AM NOT AT ALL SURE HOW YOU WOULD BE RECEIVED; THE SYRIANS MIGHT WELL NOT WANT TO BECOME LINKED WITH YOU BY SUCH A MEETING. IN ANY CASE, I THINK THERE ARE SOME ADVANTAGES TO YOUR HAVING THE POSITION OF A RELATIVELY INDEPENDENT ACTOR IN THE LEBANESE SCENE, NOT TOTALLY IDENTIFIED WITH THE SYRIANS EVEN WHILE MOVING IN GENERAL SUPPORT OF THEIR EFFORTS.

4. FINALLY, I THINK YOUR SENSE OF TIMING IS ABOUT RIGHT WHEN YOU SUGGEST TERMINATING YOUR MISSION AT THE TIME ELECTIONS ARE HELD. WE CAN USE THAT AS A PLANNING BASE, SUBJECT TO DEVELOPMENTS. KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INSTRUCTIONS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, INTERVENTION, SECURITY, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, POLITICAL SITUATION, GOVERNMENT REACT IONS, CAT-C  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 APR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** buchant0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE088186  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** ARDAY:TH  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** P840098-2550  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760467/aaaacerb.tel  
**Line Count:** 98  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN NODS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** NODIS  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** NODIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** buchant0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21 JUN 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <13 OCT 2004 by buchant0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LEBANON  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, MPOL, SY, LE, US, IS, (BROWN, L DEAN)  
**To:** BEIRUT DAMASCUS TEL AVIV  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006